

I will insert copies of this exchange in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work the Committee on Energy and Commerce as this bill moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
Chairman.

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise in support of H.R. 1029, the Pesticide Registration Enhancement Act of 2017.

Once again, Madam Speaker, I stand before you to urge the passage of H.R. 1029. As we know, the Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for regulating the sale, use, and distribution of pesticides. To facilitate and expedite that pesticide approval process, pesticide manufacturers have long supplemented the EPA's annual budget. This system allows the products to be reviewed in a timely manner, without sacrificing environmental and safety protections. It is truly a win-win for both manufacturers and consumers, and, as you heard Mr. DAVIS speak about, it is a clear example of government at its best. It is exactly why I enjoy working on the Committee on Agriculture. It is exactly why I enjoy working with people such as RODNEY DAVIS. We have a bipartisan, effective, public-private legislative solution for a more predictable pesticide evaluation process that literally helps everybody.

The Pesticide Registration Enhancement Act, H.R. 1029, is an exceptional piece of legislation not only because it is supported by a unique coalition of pesticide registrants, environmental groups, and agricultural labor representatives, but H.R. 1029 provides a more effective, predictable, and transparent pesticide evaluation process. It promotes shorter review periods for reduced-risk pesticides and enhances scientific and regulatory activities related to farmworker protection.

My district on the central coast of California is not only bountiful in its agriculture, it is absolutely beautiful with its environment. Therefore, we on the central coast work hard to find that balance of being known as the salad bowl of the world and one of the most scenic places in the world. That is why our agriculture producers are the most thoughtful stewards of the land and recognize the need to protect the environment and the natural resources.

This legislation facilitates that balance. This legislation provides a unique coalition building and encourages the agriculture industry to work with environmentalists. Thus, H.R. 1029 helps all of us who live and work in our community and, ultimately, our country. That is why I am absolutely honored to speak in this debate, humbled to share the floor with Representative DAVIS, and why I urge all my colleagues to support this bill.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, this is exactly why we are here today in a bipartisan way. The gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA) said it right: this affects his industry, and it affects his home area. As he likes to say, it is the salad bowl of America. I have been there, and I have seen the crops they grow. The crops I grow are much different in central Illinois, the crops that are grown by the farmers that I am proud to represent, but they all have to have a successful PRIA reauthorization to be able to grow those foods that we here in America continue to feed the world with and that we see in our grocery stores and on our supermarket shelves.

Madam Speaker, I want to say thank you because this bill is essential, as we in central Illinois go out and take care of things such as making sure the weeds don't pop up in our yards. Every single small business that decides to put down product and pesticides to ensure that lawns in central Illinois continue to prosper as the spring and summer unfold, this is essential to their success.

This is essential to our farmers, who are looking to get their fields ready to go plant, the stewards of the land, the best stewards of the land, as Congressman PANETTA said. It assures them that they are going to be able to get that seed into the ground and, with the hope and prayers of rain and moisture, that it is going to grow and that we are still going to have a marketplace for those products.

The risk that our farmers take every single year, when they risk and leverage their family incomes in many cases, in hopes that a seed is going to grow and a plant is going to grow, and they are going to be able to sell that, they need the certainty that this bill will actually give them. That is why I am proud to be here as the author, proud to stand with my colleagues.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1029, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

100 YEARS OF WOMEN IN CONGRESS ACT

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 382) to amend the Department of Agriculture program for research and extension grants to increase participation by women and underrepresented minorities in the fields of science, technology,

engineering, and mathematics to redesignate the program as the "Jeannette Rankin Women and Minorities in STEM Fields Program".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 382

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "100 Years of Women in Congress Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The first woman elected to Congress, Representative Jeannette Rankin from Montana, was elected on November 7, 1916, almost four years prior to ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution giving women the right to vote.

(2) Jeannette Rankin was not only a pioneer in national electoral politics, she was also a pioneer as a woman in science, graduating from the University of Montana in 1902 with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology.

(3) 100 years after the swearing-in of Jeannette Rankin, 109 women serve in the 115th Congress, more than at any other time in our Nation's history. While this improvement is commendable, women hold only 20 percent of the seats in Congress, far below their relative share of the American electorate.

(4) According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, women make up 47 percent of the total U.S. workforce. Gains have been made in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields over time, but women still comprise only 39 percent of chemists and material scientists, 28 percent of environmental scientists and geoscientists, 16 percent of chemical engineers, and 12 percent of civil engineers.

(5) More must be done to encourage women to run for elected office and to enter STEM fields.

SEC. 3. JEANNETTE RANKIN WOMEN AND MINORITIES IN STEM FIELDS PROGRAM.

Paragraph (7) of section 1672(d) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925(d)(7)) is amended to read as follows:

"(7) JEANNETTE RANKIN WOMEN AND MINORITIES IN STEM FIELDS PROGRAM.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section to increase participation by women and underrepresented minorities from rural areas in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, with priority given to eligible institutions that carry out continuing programs funded by the Secretary. Any grant made under this paragraph shall be known and designated as a 'Jeannette Rankin Women and Minorities in STEM Fields Program Grant'."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am glad to stand here with the gentlewoman from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER), another one of our new colleagues on the House Committee on Agriculture, in support of H.R. 382, the 100 Years of Women in Congress Act.

This legislation would honor a true pioneer of American politics by naming an important agricultural research program at the U.S. Department of Agriculture as the Jeannette Rankin Women and Minorities in STEM Fields Program. This competitive research grant program is designed to increase participation by women and underrepresented minorities from rural areas in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. I can think of no better person to identify with this important program than former Representative Rankin, who was the first woman to serve in this great institution, the United States House of Representatives, an achievement made even more significant by the fact that Ms. Rankin was elected to Congress several years prior to the ratification of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, March 16, 2017.

Hon. MICHAEL CONAWAY, Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing concerning H.R. 382, the "100 Years of Women in Congress Act," which was introduced on January 9, 2017.

H.R. 382 contains provisions within the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology's Rule X jurisdiction. In order to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology will forego action on the bill. This is being done on the basis of our mutual understanding that doing so will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology with respect to the appointment of conferees, or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would request that you include a copy of this letter and your response in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, DC, March 16, 2017.

Hon. LAMAR S. SMITH, Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 382, the "100 Years of

Women in Congress Act." I agree that the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology has a valid jurisdictional claim to provisions in this legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, I will include a copy of our exchange in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration.

Sincerely,

K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
Chairman.

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my distinguished colleague from the State of New York (Ms. MENG), the sponsor of this legislation.

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Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I am so pleased to be here today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of women serving in Congress.

I thank the Speaker for allowing this legislation to come to the floor. And I thank my good friend and former colleague, Secretary Zinke, for authoring this legislation with me. His support has been instrumental in ensuring the consideration of this bill, and I am deeply grateful to him.

One hundred years ago, Jeannette Rankin was sworn in as a Member of the United States House of Representatives. She was the first woman elected to Congress, and was elected before passage of the 19th amendment which granted women the right to vote.

Jeannette Rankin was a trailblazer her entire life. In 1902, she graduated from the University of Montana with a degree in biology. Afterward, she became active in the women's suffrage movement, moving to New York City and assisting in the founding of the New York Women's Suffrage Party and working for the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

Rankin would eventually return to her home State of Montana, and was elected to office in the congressional election of 1916. Upon winning, she declared: "I may be the first woman Member of Congress, but I won't be the last."

I am happy to say that she was right.

In recognition of Congresswoman Jeannette Rankin's many accomplishments, and in celebration of the centennial anniversary of her service in Congress, Secretary Zinke and I introduced the 100 Years of Women in Congress Act.

Because Jeannette Rankin was a woman of science more than 100 years before our current push to have more women enter STEM fields, we felt it appropriate to rename the Department of Agriculture's Women and Minorities in STEM Fields Program after her.

This program currently supports collaborative research projects at institutions of higher education, and seeks to increase the participation of women and minorities from rural areas in STEM fields. It will continue to do so in the future, but now it will also recognize the many contributions

Jeannette Rankin made to American life.

Madam Speaker, thank you again for allowing this legislation to the floor today, and thank you again to Secretary Zinke for partnering with me on it.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 382, the 100 Years of Women in Congress Act.

This bipartisan legislation will recognize the work that Jeannette Rankin, the first woman elected to Congress in 1916, accomplished fighting for women's rights. It will rename the USDA's Women and Minorities in STEM Fields Program to the Jeannette Rankin Women and Minorities in STEM Fields Grant Program. In our time, it is critical that we encourage more women to enter STEM fields across this country. In receiving a bachelor's degree in biology before women even had the right to vote, she set an example for those who followed her to follow their passions for science and to achieve impactful leadership roles.

As I travel through Delaware, one of the consistent messages that I hear from businesses and universities is the need for more engineers. We have a wealth of knowledge in our young girls who are demanding rigorous programs that put them in place for rewarding careers. These types of programs match the boundless enthusiasm with concrete steps towards achieving meaningful career goals that benefit our entire country.

My sister, Thea, demonstrates the impact of successful STEM education from organizations like the Forum to Advance Minority Engineers—FAME—for schoolchildren in Delaware, to her attending an HBCU as an engineering major, and in her career spent serving our country as an engineer with the Army.

My late husband Charles received undergraduate and graduate degrees in mechanical and aerospace engineering. Those degrees gave him the opportunity to travel the world as an engineer and give back to the energy sector.

However, my family and I know that the answer doesn't simply end with STEM. It is also about incorporating the arts into one's education in the form of STEAM, where we can see the balance that a quality education provides.

In my experiences, as the first woman elected to Congress from Delaware, I understand the challenges that come with trying to break through barriers. That is why this legislation and the impact of getting more young women to pursue STEM and STEAM careers is so deeply personal to me.

As Congresswoman Jeannette Rankin said before taking her oath of office in 1917—nearly 4 years before women had even gained the right to vote through the 19th Amendment—as you heard before, she said: “I may be the first woman to be a Member of Congress, but I won’t be the last.”

I am honored to serve as one of the more than 300 women to follow her lead. When we look to history to guide us in challenging moments, we will look to people like Congresswoman Jeannette Rankin, and I am confident she would be honored to have her name associated with this legislation and its aims.

I thank the sponsors, and I thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for this bipartisan work.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I would be remiss if I didn’t thank my colleague, who I was sworn in with in January of 2013 when she raised her right hand, as I did, on this floor to join this great institution, my colleague, GRACE MENG, for being the sponsor of this piece of legislation. I thank GRACE for her leadership, and also Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, the first woman elected to serve in this institution from the State of Delaware. It is humbling and an honor for me to be able to stand here and help manage this piece of legislation. She should be very proud of what she is doing today.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in support of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Madam Speaker, I urge all Members as well to support passage of H.R. 382, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 382.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TSA ADMINISTRATOR MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2017

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1309) to streamline the office and term of the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1309

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “TSA Administrator Modernization Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002 AND TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE.

(a) HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.—Paragraph (1) of section 103(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (I), by striking “12” and inserting “11”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(L) An Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, in accordance with section 114 of title 49, United States Code.”.

(b) INCLUSION IN EXECUTIVE SCHEDULE.—Section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security.”.

SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 49, UNITED STATES CODE.

Section 114 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “Department of Transportation” and inserting “Department of Homeland Security”;

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “Under Secretary of Transportation for Security” and inserting “Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration”;

(3) by striking “Under Secretary” each place it appears and inserting “Administrator”;

(4) in subsection (b), in the heading, by striking “UNDER SECRETARY” and inserting “ADMINISTRATOR”;

(5) in subsection (e)(4), by striking “Secretary of Transportation” and inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security”;

(6) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (6), by striking “Federal Security Managers” and inserting “Federal Security Directors”; and

(B) in paragraph (14), by inserting “air carriers or” before “foreign air carriers”;

(7) in subsection (g)—

(A) by striking “the Secretary” each place it appears and inserting “the Secretary of Homeland Security”; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “The Secretary” and inserting “The Secretary of Homeland Security”;

(8) in subsection (j)(1)(D), by striking “the Secretary” and inserting “the Secretary of Homeland Security”;

(9) in subsection (1)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “the Secretary” and inserting “the Secretary of Homeland Security”; and

(B) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking “the Administrator under subparagraph (A)” and inserting “the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration under subparagraph (A)”;

(10) in subsection (m)—

(A) in the heading, by striking “UNDER SECRETARY” and inserting “ADMINISTRATOR”; and

(B) in paragraph (1), in the heading, by striking “UNDER SECRETARY” and inserting “ADMINISTRATOR”;

(11) in subsection (n), by striking “Department of Transportation” and inserting “Department of Homeland Security”;

(12) in subsection (o), by striking “Department of Transportation” and inserting “Department of Homeland Security”; and

(13) in subsection (p)(4), by striking “Secretary of Transportation” and inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) and the gentleman from New York (Miss RICE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House to support H.R. 1309, the TSA Administrator Modernization Act of 2017.

TSA was created within the Department of Transportation in 2001 to address the security vulnerabilities that were exposed in the attacks of 9/11. At that time, the administrator was given a 5-year term. However, when TSA and its functions transferred to the Department of Homeland Security a year later, the 5-year term officially terminated by statute.

Many of the issues and bureaucratic challenges that TSA faces today stem from a lack of consistent leadership at the top. Since I came to Congress in January 2015, TSA has had no less than five different individual administrators, both as appointees and as acting administrators. This is a staggering number in such a brief period of time.

A revolving door of leadership has further exacerbated the numerous problems that plague this young agency. It is unacceptable that this has gone on for more than a decade. The American people deserve better, and that is why we are here today with this bill.

This bill addresses these issues by reestablishing the administrator’s position, level, and 5-year term, just as Congress originally intended when it created TSA in the wake of 9/11. Additionally, this bill updates Federal statute to reflect current policy by clarifying TSA’s proper role within the Department of Homeland Security.

While this is only one step in addressing the many challenges at TSA, this legislation will provide for more consistent leadership at such a critical security agency.

Ensuring the effectiveness of Federal agencies and the security of the American people is a bipartisan task, and one of which I am happy to be part of. I commend my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for coming together to support this bill. This is exactly what the American people expect from us.

I especially want to thank Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member THOMPSON for moving this bill swiftly through committee to the floor today. I also thank Congresswoman RICE, who is supporting this bill as well.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.